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Case of smallpox on steamer Thomas Brooks at Santiago.

OFFICE OF MEDICAL OFFICER IN COMMAND,
MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE,
Santiago de Cuba, February 23, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report the arrival of the steamer *Thomas Brooks*, from Caimanera, Guantanamo Bay, with a case of smallpox.

The case, a cabin passenger, is being cared for at the isolation camp of the Army. The vessel was disinfected in the portions exposed to the infection, as well as possible, with the limited means at my disposal. The crew (22) were vaccinated.

The vessel, being the only means of communication between here and Guantanamo Bay, will continue her biweekly trips under close surveillance.

Respectfully, yours,

M. J. ROSENAU,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

PERSIA.

Sanitary report from Teheran.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
Teheran, Persia, January 19, 1899.

SIR: In reply to circular of October 31, 1898, I beg to say that only the vaguest data are obtainable in this city. Some statistics were formerly to be had from a sanitary council holding weekly meetings, but for two years or more, owing to internal dissensions, no meetings of this council have taken place. There is no regulation requiring the report of deaths to the authorities, and, as the population is not accurately known, a reliable death rate can not be given. The population of Teheran is variously estimated at from 200,000 to 300,000. A census was attempted recently by the police department, but as this was connected in the popular mind with schemes for increased taxation, the results were probably below the truth. The authorities place the population between 290,000 and 300,000, but others with equal assurance contend it is much less. The only data serving to fix the number of deaths are obtained from the public washhouses, where the dead are brought to be washed before burial or transport to Koom or other holy places. According to H. E. Nayer-ul-Mulk, formerly president of the sanitary council, the number is between 15 and 17 per day. Those whose means allow them to prepare their own dead do not as a rule carry them to the public washhouses, nor are children under 8 or 9 years of age taken there. As the mortality among infants and children is very high, the above figures tell far from the whole story. European physicians, while unable to give the death rate, place it, however, rather below than above the average in normal conditions—that is, when there is no epidemic.

No system exists for the collection, removal, or disposition of garbage. It is simply thrown into the streets, where it constitutes the principal food supply of the dogs, which are the public scavengers. Dead animals, horses, donkeys, camels, etc., are not buried, but are taken outside the city walls and abandoned to the dogs and birds. Their skeletons whiten the plains in every direction beyond the city limits. There is a total lack of any system of drainage. The water supply is obtained from the Shimran district, 10 miles north of the city, on the lower slopes of the Elburz range, either by open canals called *jub*, or underground canals called *kanat*. The method is as fol-